

I claim:

1. A golf ball retrieval tool comprising  
2 an elongated handle having a longitudinal axis;  
3 a tool having  
4 a body coupled to one end of the handle and extending substantially parallel  
5 the longitudinal axis;  
6 a shelf disposed on an end of the body distal the handle and substantially  
7 perpendicular to the body;  
8 a backstop coupled to the shelf and disposed substantially perpendicular to  
9 both the shelf and the body, wherein the body, the shelf and the backstop define an open-  
10 cornered support for a golf ball; and  
coupling means for coupling the tool to the handle.
1. 2. The retrieval tool according to Claim 1 and further comprising  
2 a plurality of prongs disposed on and extending from the shelf opposite the backstop.
1. 3. The retrieval tool according to Claim 2 wherein  
2 the prongs extend coplanar with the shelf opposite the backstop.
1. 4. The retrieval tool according to Claim 1 wherein the coupling means comprises  
2 a tang extending longitudinally from the proximate end of the body; and  
3 a plug coupled to a shaft inside the handle, the plug surrounding and defining a slot  
4 adapted to receive and frictionally grasp the tang.

- 1       5. The retrieval tool according to Claim 4 wherein  
2                  the plug is adapted to receive the tang in a plurality of angular positions about the  
3                  longitudinal axis.
  
  
- 1       6. The retrieval tool according to Claim 4 wherein the plug further comprises  
2                  a cap having a dimension larger than an outside dimension of the shaft.
  
  
- 1       7. The retrieval tool according to Claim 1 wherein the coupling means comprises  
2                  a strap coupled to the body and adapted to wrap around the handle to secure the body  
3                  to the handle.
  
  
- 1       8. The retrieval tool according to Claim 1 wherein the coupling means comprises  
2                  a plate disposed on a side of, and oriented substantially perpendicular to, the tool body  
3                  and adapted to contact an end of the handle; and  
4                  a strap coupled to the body and adapted to wrap around the handle to secure the body  
5                  to the handle.
  
  
- 1       9. The retrieval tool according to Claim 8 wherein the plate comprises  
2                  a yoke having a mouth opening open toward the handle and adapted to receive the end  
3                  of the handle within the mouth.
  
  
- 1       10. The retrieval tool according to Claim 1 wherein  
2                  the backstop is disposed on an end of the shelf a spaced distance apart from the body  
3                  to define a gap adapted to receive storage means for the tool.

1       11. The retrieval tool according to Claim 1 wherein  
2                  the handle comprises a golf club having a head and a grip on opposite ends of a shaft;  
3                  and  
4                  the tool removably couples to the grip.

1       12. The retrieval tool according to Claim 11 wherein the coupling means comprises  
2                  a tang extending longitudinally from the proximate end of the body; and  
3                  a plug coupled to a shaft inside the handle, the plug surrounding and defining an slot  
4                  adapted to receive and frictionally grasp the tang.

1       13. The retrieval tool according to Claim 12 wherein the plug further comprises  
2                  a cap having a dimension larger than an outside dimension of the shaft.

1       14. A golf ball retrieval tool comprising  
2                  an elongated handle having  
3                          a longitudinal axis and an inside surface;  
4                  a plug coupled to the inside surface;  
5                  a tool head having  
6                          a body coupled to and extending from the plug;  
7                          a shelf disposed on an end of the body distal the handle and substantially  
8                  perpendicular to the body;  
9                          a backstop coupled to the shelf and disposed substantially perpendicular to  
10                  both the shelf and the body, whereby the body, the shelf and the backstop define an open-  
11                  cornered support for a golf ball; and  
12                  two tapered prongs disposed on the shelf and extending from the shelf  
13                  opposite the backstop.



1       16.   The improved method of retrieving a golf ball of Claim 15 wherein the step of coupling  
2       the tool to the handle further comprises  
3               providing  
4                       a tang extending longitudinally from the proximate end of the body; and  
5                       a plug coupled to a shaft inside the handle and surrounding and defining a slot  
6                       adapted to receive and frictionally grasp the tang; then  
7                       inserting the tang into the slot; then  
8                       pressing the tool towards the handle along the longitudinal axis of the handle.

1       17.   The improved method of retrieving a golf ball of claim 15 wherein the step of coupling  
2       the tool to the handle comprises  
3               providing  
4                       a shank disposed on the body and extending longitudinally away from the body;  
5                       a yoke disposed on a side of the tool body and having an opening oriented  
6                       away from the shelf and adapted to receive an end of the handle; and  
7                       a strap coupled to the shank; then  
8                       positioning the tool with the shank adjacent the handle with the end of the handle  
9                       received within the opening of the yoke, then  
10                  wrapping the strap around the handle to secure the tool to the handle.



1       19. The improved method of repairing a golf ball mark of Claim 18 wherein the step of  
2 coupling the tool to the handle further comprises;  
3             providing  
4                 a tang extending longitudinally from the body; and  
5                 a plug coupled to a shaft inside the handle and surrounding and defining a slot  
6                 adapted to receive and frictionally grasp the tang; then  
7                 inserting the tang into the slot; then  
8                 pressing the tool towards the handle along the longitudinal axis of the handle.

1       20. The improved method of repairing a golf ball mark of Claim 18 wherein the step of  
2 coupling the tool to the handle further comprises;  
3             providing  
4                 a shank disposed on and extending longitudinally away from the body;  
5                 a yoke disposed on a side of the body and having an opening oriented away  
6                 from the shelf, the opening adapted to receive one end of the handle; and  
7                 and a strap coupled to a shank; then  
8                 positioning the tool with the shank adjacent the handle with the end of the handle  
9                 received within the opening of the yoke; then  
10                 wrapping the strap around the handle to secure the tool to the handle.

1       21. An improved method of preventing a golf club grip from contacting the ground during  
2                  use, the golf club having a shaft having a longitudinal axis extending between two  
3                  opposite ends, a head on one end and a grip on the opposite end, the method  
4                  comprising  
5                  providing a golf ball retrieval tool adapted to couple to the grip and having  
6                  a body extending substantially parallel the longitudinal axis;  
7                  a shelf disposed on the body distal the handle and substantially perpendicular to  
8                  the body;  
9                  a backstop coupled to the shelf and disposed substantially perpendicular to  
10                 both the shelf and the body; and  
11                 coupling means for coupling the tool to the grip; then  
12                 coupling the tool to the grip; then  
13                 grasping the golf club by the grip and laying the head onto the ground; then  
14                 laying the golf club down substantially parallel to the ground until the tool contacts  
15                 the ground whereby a gap remains between the grip and the ground; then  
16                 retrieving the golf club from the ground by inserting lifting means between the grip  
17                 and the ground and lifting the grip.